

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4024

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to retransmission consent and must-carry for cable operators and satellite carriers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2004

Mr. PAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to retransmission consent and must-carry for cable operators and satellite carriers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “TV Consumer Free-
5 dom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RETRANSMISSION CONSENT.**

7 Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934
8 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
10 following:

1 “(b)(1) No cable system or other multichannel video
2 programming distributor shall retransmit the signal of a
3 broadcasting station, or any part thereof, except with the
4 express authority of the station.”;

5 (2) in paragraph (3)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and
7 of the right to signal carriage under section
8 614”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and
10 the right to signal carriage under section 614”;
11 and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(C) Within 45 days after the effective date of the
14 TV Consumer Freedom Act, the Commission shall com-
15 mence a rulemaking proceeding to revise the regulations
16 governing the exercise by television broadcast stations of
17 the right to grant retransmission consent under this sub-
18 section. Such regulations shall establish election time peri-
19 ods that correspond with those regulations adopted under
20 subparagraph (B). The rulemaking shall be completed
21 within 180 days after the effective date of the TV Con-
22 sumer Freedom Act.”; and

23 (3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5) and re-
24 designating paragraph (6) as paragraph (4).

1 **SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF MUST-CARRY REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) REPORT.—Sections 338, 614, and 615 of the
3 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 338, 534, and
4 535) are repealed.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) Section 623(b)(7)(A) of the Communica-
7 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543(b)(7)(A)) is
8 amended by striking clause (i) and redesignating
9 clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii).

10 (2) Section 635 of the Communications Act of
11 1934 (47 U.S.C. 555) is amended by striking sub-
12 section (c).

13 (3) Section 653 of the Communications Act of
14 1934 (47 U.S.C. 573) is amended—

15 (A) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking
16 “614, or 615,”; and

17 (B) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking
18 “sections 611, 614, and 615” and inserting
19 “section 611”.

20 (4) Section 336(b)(3) of the Communications
21 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 336(b)(3)) is amended by
22 striking “have any rights to carriage under section
23 614 or 615 or”.

1 **SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF MANDATES FOR TELEVISION FEA-**
2 **TURES AND FUNCTIONS.**

3 All regulations of the Federal Communications Com-
4 mission requiring television receivers sold in the United
5 States to include particular types of features or functions,
6 or specifying the technology to be used to provide such
7 features or functions, shall cease to be effective on the
8 date of enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
11 take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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